



Sandwell Community Information & Participation Service

SCIPS Company News

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In accordance with current government guidelines the staff are still predominantly working from home with limited access to the office.

The Board will continue to review the situation on a regular basis. You can still contact staff on the 0121 544 1230 number or by email enquiries@scips.org.uk.

We continue to put useful information on the SCIPS Facebook page including information from Sandwell MBC.

The Board took the decision not to furlough any staff and have carried on delivering our services to our members.

We are currently looking at how we can hold an A.G.M safely this year, enclosed in this mailing is a form and pre paid envelope, can you please complete the paperwork and send it back as this will assist the Board with their discussion on this issue.

Please stay safe

Project Updates

Hateley Cross Big Local: Good News!



The Hateley Cross Partnership group have asked us to continue as both the LTO and Community Development providers for them, until the end of their Big Local funding in December 2025.

SCIPS Board are pleased that Hateley Cross Partnership are happy with our input to date and have agreed to negotiate a contract with them for these services up until the end of their project, with the opportunity to review the support required at a 2 year review point to assess the needs of both parties.

This contract will fund, at least, a full time equivalent post for SCIPS and will continue to contribute to our overall purpose.

Our staff are to be congratulated for doing such a good job, that they want us to continue to work with them.

Exciting times for Hateley Cross Big Local.

Our Number
0121 544 1230

Hateley Cross Big Local Green Space

The Hateley Cross Big Local Green Spaces Sub group (on behalf of the partnership) have identified two green space sites to develop at a cost of up to £64,500 .

They have worked very closely with Sandwell Council staff and will be very soon announcing this work to the local community and partners. These projects have been developed following their extensive consultation events in the Summer of 2019, and are very excited about breaking this news to their local community.

It's a great boost to see all the planning and hard work come to fruition.



Digi-Comm – Digital In Our Communities

Our digital programme 'Digi-Comm' is nearing its 1st birthday, and what a year it has been!

As the project began, we were already in lockdown. The outcomes of the programme have been achieved in a very different way to how we planned. In many ways we have adapted to respond to the needs of the community throughout the 3 lockdowns.

It is also important to say that we would not have been able to achieve these outcomes without the extra investment the 'Tablet Loan Scheme' bought. This has enabled, individuals, groups, boards and partnerships within many of our projects to continue with business and interacting with their local communities via the tablet loans.

The training developed and delivered has supported people to utilise the tablets, use downloads and use zoom, create an email account, set up zoom meetings to engage with their communities, families, as well as take part in council task and finish groups.

We are currently detailing how delivery of the project will continue in the second year, we will keep you informed.

TRA Capital Grant Applications—April 2021

In partnership with SMBC, SCIPS staff approached registered TRA's to access funding for groups to purchase Tablets that would assist them to continue to run their groups and engage with the wider community whilst still under any lockdown restrictions.

As the Council are undertaking more consultation online, it will also enable groups to partake in this activity. Five groups took up the offer and were successful in receiving the grants.

SCIPS staff will now support the groups to set up the tablets so that they can hold zoom meetings etc to carry on the important work within their communities, as well as grow confidence in digital technology.





Road map out of lockdown

WWW.gov.uk/Government/Publication/covid19-responses-Spring-2021

From 12th of April we have been following step 2 of the Road map out of lockdown which consists of the following:

STEP 2

- ⇒ Shops will now open including Hairdressers and Nail Salons
- ⇒ Libraries and Community Centres will open
- ⇒ Zoo's and Theme Parks will open
- ⇒ Drive-in Cinemas will open
- ⇒ Campsites and Holiday Cottages will open
- ⇒ Indoor Gyms will open (on your own or within your household)
- ⇒ Restaurants, Café's, Pubs can open OUTSIDE (within your household or bubble)
- ⇒ 30 people can attend a funeral and 15 people can attend a wedding



STEP 3 - 17th May (if all goes well—data dependent)

- ⇒ You can meet who you like outdoors
- ⇒ You cannot meet people if the group is over 30 people
- ⇒ We will look at whether it is ok to be closer to people
- ⇒ Restaurants, Cafes and Pubs will be able to serve people sitting inside at tables
- ⇒ Other indoor places will also be open; cinemas, Children's play areas, Hotels
- ⇒ Some larger outdoor sports and shows will be open



STEP 4 - 21st June (if all goes well—data dependent)

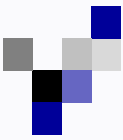
- ⇒ We hope to remove all remaining rules
- ⇒ Nightclubs will open and larger events can take place



We still need to:

Wash hands often
Be careful not to touch our faces
Giving people extra space
Let fresh air in
Get tested





census 2021

It's not too late to complete your census. Do it now to avoid prosecution and the risk of a £1,000 fine. Either visit www.census.gov.uk (if you have lost your unique access code, you only need a UK mobile and one can be texted to you in moments) or telephone 0800 141 2021. If English isn't your first language, call 0800 587 2021 (all you have to be able to do is say the name of the language you speak in English and you will then be put through to a translator).

Obviously, the call centre is busy, but it's open 8am-8pm Monday to Friday and 8am-1pm on Saturday. Calling outside office hours means the connection rate will be quicker.

Alternatively there are also three census support centres in Sandwell:

Census support centres – Ileys Community Centre (0121 448 3940), EWA (0121 740 0824), for BSL users Sandwell Deaf Community Association (0121 553 0201)

These have been created for people to either book appointments so that they can physically visit and complete the census or telephone for support.

Plant and Craft Sale - YMCA - 1st-3rd May 2021

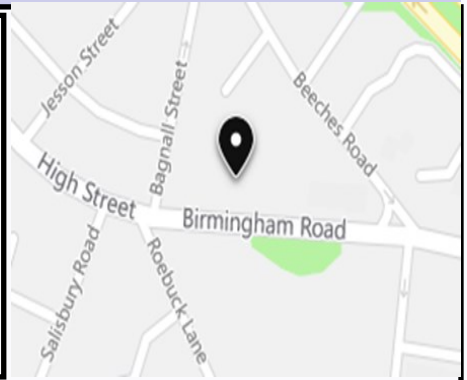
YMCA Open Door is launching a fundraising campaign with a target of £30,000 funds to help reduce youth homelessness within the Black Country. There have been challenges this year with funding cuts to the project, despite an increase of 34% of young people needing the service compared to the beginning quarter of last year.

The campaign starts with an online Plant and Craft Sale from 1st - 3rd May Bank Holiday Weekend. The event will be held on the Open Door Facebook page facebook.com/YMCAOpenDoor. If you can donate any plants or craft items, please contact rachael.taylor@ymcab.org.uk or call 07854 928988

Sandwell Community Information & Participation Service Ltd



NMC Venue
47 Birmingham Road
West Bromwich
West Midlands
B70 6PY
0121 544 1230
Fb: @sandwellcips



SCIPS is a registered charity no 1097702. If you would like to find out more about us and the work we are involved in, please visit our website at www.scips.org.uk

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